

What is claimed is:

1. A pasting and bookbinding apparatus:

(a) a sheet bundle loading device for positioning sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus and stacking the positioned sheets thereon;

(b) a holding device for holding a sheet bundle stacked on the bundle of sheets loading device and transporting;

(c) a sheet bundle transporting device for receiving the sheet bundle transported by the holding device and interposing the sheet bundle to erect;

(d) a paste coating device for coating paste on a back of the sheet bundle interposed and erected by the sheet bundle transporting device;

(e) a cover supplying device for supplying a cover sheet;

(f) a cover pasting device for pressing the cover sheet supplied from the cover supplying device against a paste-coated back of the sheet bundle to paste; and

(g) a cover folding device for folding the cover sheet pasted on a sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along an edge portion of a paste-coated surface of the sheet bundle,

wherein elements (a) to (g) are arranged in a longitudinal line in a vertical direction inside a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.

2. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sheet ejection device arranged in an upper portion of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, for directly ejecting a sheet which does not need to be subjected to pasting and bookbinding processing.

3. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an elevating device provided in a lower portion of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, for moving the cover pasting device and the cover folding device in a vertical direction.

4. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a transporting device that is composed of a sheet transport path through which a sheet ejected from the image forming apparatus is transported and is fed into the sheet bundle loading device, a cover transport path through which a sheet for a cover supplied from the cover supplying device is transported to the cover pasting device and a sheet

ejection path through which a sheet is transported to the sheet ejection device.

5. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, wherein formation of a sheet bundle by sticking between sheets with paste and bookbinding by wrapping with a cover by which a booklet is made by sticking a cover composed of a front cover and a back cover to a sheet bundle with paste, carried out at a same location.

6. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, wherein a booklet formed by the cover folding device is bookbinding by wrapping the sheet bundle with a front cover surface, a back cover surface and a back of the sheet bundle in which the paste applied portion back of the sheet bundle is pasted.

7. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, so that front sides respective of the cover supplying device, the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the

cover pasting device, the cover folding device and an elevating device for moving the cover pasting device and the cover folding device in a vertical direction, which are arranged lengthwise in a vertical direction.

8. An image forming system comprising:

(a) an image forming apparatus main body including an image writing means, an image forming means and a sheet transporting means; and

(b) the pasting and bookbinding apparatus described in the claim 1.

9. A pasting and bookbinding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet bundle loading device for stacking sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus;

(b) a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle composed of plural sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle to be erected at a prescribed position; and

(c) a paste coating device having a movable paste coating member for coating paste on end surfaces of superposed sheet bundles held at the prescribed position,

wherein the paste coating member stands by at an

initial position outside an area for a maximum-sized sheet, and moves along the end surfaces of superposed sheet bundle held in the erected state to coat paste when a paste coating processing is carried out.

10. A pasting and bookbinding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet bundle loading device on which sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus are stacked;

(b) a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle composed of plural sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle to be erected at a prescribed position;

(c) a paste coating device that stands by at an initial position outside an area in a lateral direction in a direction of end surfaces of a superposed maximum-sized sheet bundle, and moves along end faces of the superposed sheet bundle held in the erected state, when a paste coating processing is carried out;

(d) a cover supplying device that contains cover sheets which touch the surface and the back of the sheet bundle and supplies;

(e) a cover pasting device for bringing a cover sheet to be in pressure contact with end surfaces of superposed

sheet bundle which has been subjected to paste coating processing to paste the cover sheet; and

(f) a cover folding device for folding a cover sheet pasted on the sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along the end faces of superposed sheet bundle.

11. The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 10, wherein a booklet formed by the cover folding device is bookbinding by wrapping the sheet bundle with a front cover surface, a back cover surface and the end faces of the superposed sheet bundle.